



UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
United States Patent and Trademark Office
Address: COMMISSIONER OF PATENTS AND TRADEMARKS
Washington, D.C. 20231
www.uspto.gov

APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/080,517	05/18/1998	CHANDRASEKHAR NARAYANASWAMI	YO998-095	9487

7590

12/05/2001

FRANK CHAU
1900 HEPMSTEAD TURNPIKE
SUITE 501
EAST MEADOW, NY 11554

EXAMINER

TILLERY, RASHAWN N

ART UNIT

PAPER NUMBER

2612

DATE MAILED: 12/05/2001

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

09/080,517

Applicant(s)

NARAYANASWAMI ET AL.

Examiner

Rashawn N Tillery

Art Unit

2612

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
- Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 18 May 1998.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-20 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-20 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
- Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
- 11) ☐ The proposed drawing correction filed on _____ is: a) ☐ approved b) ☐ disapproved by the Examiner.
- If approved, corrected drawings are required in reply to this Office action.
- 12) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 119 and 120

- 13) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.
- 14) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e) (to a provisional application).
- a) ☐ The translation of the foreign language provisional application has been received.
- 15) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 120 and/or 121.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s). _____
- 2) ☒ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 3) ☒ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449) Paper No(s) 2 . 6) ☐ Other: _____

DETAILED ACTION

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 112

The following is a quotation of the second paragraph of 35 U.S.C. 112:

The specification shall conclude with one or more claims particularly pointing out and distinctly claiming the subject matter which the applicant regards as his invention.

Claim 19 recites the limitation "method of claim 19." There is insufficient antecedent basis for this limitation in the claim. For purposes of examination, the claim will be treated as if dependent from claim 18.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

1. Claims 1, 4-5, 7-8, 12-14 and 17 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Friedman (US5499294) in view of Mintzer et al (US5875249).

Regarding claim 1, Friedman discloses, in figure 4, an image capturing system (10) for automatically recording and authenticating a plurality of parameters (see col. 9, lines 8-28 where the various parameters are discussed) in a captured image, comprising:

Art Unit: 2612

a central processing unit (12) for controlling a plurality of functions and operations of the system;

image capture means (11), operatively connected to the central processing unit, for generating a digital image of an observed image frame and for generating a plurality of image data associated with the generation of the image;

wireless communication means (GPS receiver), operatively connected to the central processing unit, for receiving data from objects in the observed image frame when the image is generated;

geographic location determining means (GPS receiver), operatively connected to the central processing unit, for determining geographic coordinates of the system when the digital image is generated;

means for determining a time and a date when the image is generated (see figure 4 where the time and date is shown);

information receiving means, operatively connected to the central processing unit, for receiving data associated with a user of the system when the digital image is generated;

image processing means (12) for receiving the plurality of parameters and recording the plurality of parameters with the generated digital image, the plurality of parameters including the plurality of image data, the object data, the time data, the date data, the location data and the user data; and

Friedman teaches a method for verifying the authenticity of a digital image using public and private keys to eliminate threats of alteration of digital files (see col. 9, lines 29-37).

Friedman does not expressly disclose means for watermarking a plurality of parameters into an image. Mintzer reveals that it is well known in the art to invisibly watermark an image with "textual data (see col. 3, lines 24-37 where the stamping information is discussed)."

Mintzer teaches watermarking an image to ensure that the content of the image has not been altered using an image verification process. First, it receives a source image and stamping information and embeds the stamping information into the source image to produce a stamped image (watermarked image). A key enables the information to be extracted from the stamped image. After the embedding process, the image verification process extracts the stamping information from the stamped image based on the key, and the stamped image is determined to be corrupted if the original stamping information does not match the extracted stamping information (see col. 3, lines 39-60). It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made for Friedman to watermark the parameters into the image as well as record them. One would have been motivated to do so in an effort to safeguard the images against malicious manipulations while also protecting the proprietary rights by maintaining the integrity of the image content.

Regarding claim 4, see claim 1 above.

Regarding claim 5, see claim 1 above

Art Unit: 2612

Regarding claim 7, Friedman teaches a method for verifying the authenticity of a digital image using public and private keys to eliminate threats of alteration of digital files. Friedman does not expressly disclose an image compression means. Mintzer teaches that it is well known in the art to compress an image before watermarking the image (see figure 8). It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to implement Mintzer's teachings. It would have been advantageous since the image verification and stamping can be achieved directly from processing on JPEG compressed image without having to first decompress the compressed image and then verify the content (see col. 16, lines 1-16).

Regarding claim 8, see claim 7 above.

Regarding claim 12, Friedman discloses, in figure 4, image data associated with the generation of the image, including f/stop, shutter speed and distance of the lens at the time of exposure (note, since applicant's claim language is written in the alternative, not all of the claims limitations must be met).

Regarding claim 13, see claim 1 above.

Regarding claim 14, see claim 1 above.

Regarding claim 17, see claim 7 above.

2. Claims 10-11 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Friedman in view of Mintzer et al in further view of Tanaka et al (US5335072).

Regarding claim 10, Friedman teaches a method for verifying the authenticity of a digital image using public and private keys to eliminate threats of alteration of digital files. Mintzer teaches watermarking an image to ensure that the content of the image

Art Unit: 2612

has not been altered using an image verification process. Neither Friedman nor Mintzer explicitly disclose a means for receiving one of verbal data and verbal commands.

Tanaka reveals that it is well known in the art to utilize a microphone for picking up voices of a photographer, persons to be photographed and other voices (see col. 4, lines 49-59; note: since Applicant's claim language is written in the alternative, Examiner will only address "means for receiving verbal data"). It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to implement Tanaka's teachings since the use of a microphone is notoriously associated with cameras.

Regarding claim 11, Friedman teaches a method for verifying the authenticity of a digital image using public and private keys to eliminate threats of alteration of digital files. Mintzer teaches watermarking an image to ensure that the content of the image has not been altered using an image verification process. Neither Friedman nor Mintzer explicitly disclose manually determining the location of the system.

Tanaka reveals that it is well known in the art to store GPS data while in areas where it is impossible to receive GPS signals from satellites (see col. 8, lines 10-25). It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to implement Tanaka's teachings. One would have been motivated to do so in an effort to store positional data when GPS signals are out of range.

3. Claims 2-3, 6, 15-16 and 18-20 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Friedman in view of Mintzer et al.

Regarding claims 2 and 3, Friedman teaches a method for verifying the authenticity of a digital image using public and private keys to eliminate threats of alteration of digital files. Mintzer teaches watermarking an image to ensure that the content of the image has not been altered using an image verification process. Neither Friedman nor Mintzer explicitly disclose specifying or determining which of the plurality of parameters should be recorded or watermarked in the image. However, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to allot user more control over the recorded and watermarked data.

Regarding claim 6, Friedman teaches a method for verifying the authenticity of a digital image using public and private keys to eliminate threats of alteration of digital files. Mintzer teaches watermarking an image to ensure that the content of the image has not been altered using an image verification process. Neither Friedman nor Mintzer explicitly disclose preventing the watermarking of the images if an image quality of the image is altered above a threshold. However, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made since it would be a waste of time and money to watermark a damaged/unclear image.

Regarding claims 15 and 16, see claims 2 and 3 above.

Regarding claim 18, see claims 1 and 2 above.

Regarding claim 19, see claim 5 above.

Regarding claim 20, see claim 18 above.

3. Claim 9 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Friedman in view of Mintzer et al in further view of Murphy et al (US5799082).

Art Unit: 2612

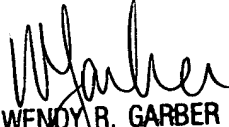
Regarding claim 9, Friedman teaches a method for verifying the authenticity of a digital image using public and private keys to eliminate threats of alteration of digital files. Mintzer teaches watermarking an image to ensure that the content of the image has not been altered using an image verification process. Neither Friedman nor Mintzer explicitly disclose an orientation determining means. Murphy teaches that it is well known in the art to determine angular orientation and embed that information into a digital image (see the Abstract). It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to implement Murphy's teachings of authenticating a digital image with positional data. This would allow the user to provide more information concerning the image.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Rashawn N Tillery whose telephone number is 703-305-0627. The examiner can normally be reached on 9AM-6:30PM.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Wendy Garber can be reached on 703-305-4929. The fax phone numbers for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned are 703-308-5359 for regular communications and 703-308-5359 for After Final communications.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the receptionist whose telephone number is 703-306-0377.

RNT
December 3, 2001


WENDY R. GARBER
SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER
TECHNOLOGY CENTER 2600